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UT Tyler to award 431 degrees Friday

The University of Texas at Tyler will award degrees to 431 fall and spring semester graduates at the 1983 spring commencement, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday at Harvey Hall. Former U.S. Congressman Mike McCormack will be the speaker.

UT Tyler has 154 graduates from the fall semester and 277 candidates for degrees for the spring. Included are 74 to receive a master's degree and 357 to receive a bachelor's degree.

Representing the UT System Board of Regents for conferral of degrees will be Mrs. Beryl Buckley Milburn. Certification of degree candidates will be by Dr. George F. Hamm. Presentation of the degree candidates will be by the four academic deans and Dr. Thomas A. Keagy, assistant to the president for academic affairs.

Dr. Douglas Vaughan, minister of First Presbyterian Church in Tyler, will give the invocation and Dr. Charles A. Siburt, minister of Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, will give the benediction.

Mrs. Kay Arms, president of the UT Tyler Alumni Association, will present the Distinguished Student Award to a graduating senior.

Mr. McCormack served as a U.S. Representative from Washington from 1970-1980. He is widely recognized for his leadership role in science and energy-related matters during his service in the Congress.

FROM THE MASTER CALENDAR

May 13 -- Commencement

May 16 -- Grade sheets from faculty due to Office of the Registrar, 12 noon

May 24 -- Last day for submission of first summer term schedule changes to Associate Vice President for addendum sheet

May 26 -- Suggested changes in Master Calendar due to Vice President for Business Affairs and Assistant to the President for Academic Affairs

May 27 -- Registration for first summer term

May 30 -- Annual equipment inventory due for completion

May 30 -- Classes begin

May 30 -- Late registration and schedule changes begin

May 31 -- Last day for late registration and schedule changes

Plant sale termed success

The 8 to 5 Forum's plant sale and cookbook drawing on May 3 was a success. Dr. Robert Marsh, registrar, won the "Cook'em Horn's" cookbook.

The club's next meeting will be June 3 in UC 134.

1982-83 University Committees

UNIVERSITY BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. L.J. Grubbs

Dr. Tom G. Turns

Dr. Donald Garrison

Dr. Kenneth Casstevens

Dr. Donald Van Horn

Dr. David Riddle (ex officio member)

Classroom place for “real excitement”

The place to find *real* excitement in the university, according to Dr. Frank H. Smyrl, history professor, is in the classroom.

“Research, writing and grading papers--when they are bad--can be a drudgery,” Smyrl said, “but to be in a classroom and see students react to new ideas and grow in knowledge is lots of fun. This makes up for unpleasant chores and financial deficiencies.”

All teachers have an off day occasionally, when they feel down when coming out of a classroom, but Smyrl says that the large percentage of classes are a thrill, and he could not be happy without it.

“If it weren’t for being able to go away from a classroom in the evening at 9:45 and be too excited to go to bed, you couldn’t do administrative duties and committee work. I couldn’t do research and writing without the classroom.”

Smyrl joined the UT Tyler faculty in 1973 as chairman of the Department of Social Sciences. One year later he was appointed dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. The title also included Academic Administrator of the School of Sciences and Mathematics and Academic Administrator of the School of Fine and Performing Arts. Later the long name was shortened to dean of the School of Liberal Arts. He resigned as dean in 1981 and was reassigned to a full-time position as professor of history at the beginning of the fall semester that year.

“My title was so long that one professor’s name for me was Super Dean,” Smyrl said, and smiled as he remembered. “At graduation when I would be introduced, the audience would laugh as my title was being read.”

Smyrl says he enjoyed the honor, the prestige and the creative responses that took place, but that he is thankful daily that he is out of administration.

“I felt the responsibility when I was dean and think I did a good job, but the only thing I miss is my private refrigerator,” he said.

“However, I’m not sure I would still have it, because my daughter has it in her dorm room in college.”

This professor who loves to teach was influenced by several people who he admired very much, but he knew from the time he was in junior high school that he wanted to teach, probably either history or math.

"I can't really pin it down to a minute, for I grew up in a family of teachers," Smyrl explained. "My mother had returned to teaching when I was in the third grade. (Mrs. Sammie Smyrl who taught math at TJC was his mother.) Edwin, my older brother, was a scholar who aspired to be either a teacher or literary critic when he grew up. His interest was in medieval history.

"I ended up in American history. Dr. Wiley Jenkins from TJC encouraged me, but a professor from UT Austin, Dr. Lathrop F. Barnes, was the one who made me decide for sure on American history. I don't think I ever had a teacher who inspired me more than he did. He was a marvel."

"Teaching is a dangerous field to enter now because of the financial end," Smyrl explained. "Someone has to really convince me they want to be a teacher for me to encourage them. The last thing I try to do is talk up history or teaching in my classes. I try to use history to help life be more enriching."

This semester, Smyrl is teaching an American history class at TJC. He initiated a request to be allowed to teach a freshman history class because he thought it would be good for him to refresh himself with the broader scope of American history.

"Teaching the class has been an emotional experience for me, he said. "Of all the classrooms at TJC, I ended up in the one I had my first college class in. It still gives me a little bit of an eerie feeling to teach in Dr. Jenkins' old room."

When he first completed his M.A. degree from UT Austin, Smyrl taught freshman history classes at San Antonio College. He had taught less than a year when he realized he would not be happy long if he did not get a Ph.D. At the end of his third year in San Antonio, he went to the University of Oklahoma and became a student of western history instead of the southern history student he had considered himself up to this point.

"I had considered myself a southern history teacher, and wanted to go to school in the south to study more southern history. I chose Oklahoma because John S. Ezell, who was the number two man in the field of southern history, was there," Smyrl said. "He was the only one in the south. As it turned out,

I never had a class under him, because just as I enrolled, he became dean of the Arts and Sciences. Under the direction of W. Eugene Holland, I quickly became a western history teacher and consider myself a western historian."

Since being at UT Tyler, he has taught 15 to 20 different courses, including a broad range from Tudor & Stuart England to recent U.S. history. "When I came to UT Tyler as chairman of social sciences, I created courses on my little typewriter, the vice president would approve them, and away we would go. He approved anything I recommended."

"I think we have a very, very fine faculty and academic students who work hard," Smyrl continued. "We attract some students who shouldn't be in college, but they leave fast. I see students who reach out and this makes teaching more rewarding."

Smyrl is working on two books: one a biography of Tom Connally, a congressman and senator from Texas during the first half of the century, and one about a Belgian abolitionist, Jean-Charles Houzeau, who went around Texas helping slaves to escape.

"These are two projects I have had going many years," he explained. "After finishing two small Texas history books and my little Poley Morgan novel and having success with those, it encouraged me to go on and tackle the job of completing the other two."

This professor, a two-time Piper nominee, is a busy man. He teaches—and loves it—he does research—a lot of it—and he writes—constantly.

in the spotlight...

Dr. Delma J. Banuelos, assistant professor of education, attended the ninth annual conference on Bilingual Education at Texas A&I University on April 21-23. She lectured a seminar group of doctoral students on cross-cultural research techniques and delivered a paper to educators and administrators on "Bilingual Special Education and Competency-Based Education."

Mr. A.C. Gentry, part-time instructor in art, has been contacted by Time-Life to do 12 paintings for a calendar.

in the spotlight...

Mrs. Olene Harned, university librarian; **Ms. Ann Bearry**, reference librarian; **Mrs. Joanne Buendtner**, library assistant for circulation; and **Ms. Peggy McGill**, library assistant for periodicals, attended the Texas Library Association meeting in San Antonio April 11-15.

Dr. W.A. Mayfield, professor of technology, presented a paper at the American Industrial Arts Association International Conference in Milwaukee, Wi. April 20. His paper was on "Interfacing Technology with a Technetronic Society." He was also the state representative to the conference and coordinator of delegates from Texas. Dr. Mayfield also conducted a curriculum development workshop in Austin April 15-16.

Dr. Don McClaugherty, associate professor of chemistry, represented the East Texas Section of the ACS at the 185th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, March 19-26, in Seattle, Wa. In addition, he attended the NSF Chautauqua Short Course entitled "Industrial Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry in College Teaching" in Philadelphia, Pa. on April 14-16.

Dr. Ernest Perez, associate professor of education, is a member of a presidential committee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and writing new legislation for the Education of Special Populations Children. On March 14, he was invited to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Director of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs to review the final draft of the proposed Bilingual Education legislation. On May 15, Dr. Perez will be leaving for Washington to meet with the Secretary of Education to discuss implementation of the proposed legislation.

Dr. William B. Stephens, professor of art, was juror and commentator for the 24th annual Student Art Exhibit at the Longview Museum and Arts Center on April 30 and was juror and commentator for the spring exhibit of the East Texas Fine Arts Association opening at the Tyler Public Library on May 1.

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